



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Keith Kawaoka
Deputy Director of Environmental Health
Hawaii Department of Health
1250 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Salute to Keith Kawaoka in Celebration of a Career Protecting Public and Environmental Health

Dear Keith,

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9's Senior Management Team and our entire workforce, I want to celebrate your lifetime of service to public health and environmental protection and wish you the best in retirement.

Our mutual priorities have benefitted from your leadership through the years. Some of our most memorable partnerships have been during emergency response activities. Your cooperative spirit resulted in meaningful outcomes in our work to revitalize Honolulu Harbor; and at Pearl Harbor, NCTAMS, Del Monte, and other sites. During the 2018 eruption of Kilauea, we partnered to secure an SO₂ monitoring network to provide real-time alerts and next day forecasts to protect the public from hazardous air quality. We benefitted from your personal commitment and leadership in the State Emergency Response Commission and active engagement in the Oceania Regional Response Team. Further, your work with our emergency response personnel in the use of specialized soil sampling equipment at Hickham and Scofield was a testament to your 'ohana spirit!

We have worked together to address complex issues facing the State of Hawaii that endanger human health and delicate, critical ecosystems. Cesspools and wastewater management are one such issue. Under your leadership, we have collaborated on numerous Clean Water Act enforcement actions including a Consent Decree that charts long term investments in wastewater collection system and treatment plants in Honolulu.

You have been instrumental in addressing longstanding issues and bringing them to resolution. Under your leadership, the EPA has observed significantly improved performance in previously challenged water programs; most notably the reduction in contested NPDES permits and the elimination of unliquidated obligations in the State Revolving Fund programs. Because of your

personal attention, the EPA and Hawaii Department of Health water management teams now enjoy a more trusting and productive relationship than ever before.

Related to our ongoing projects, we benefitted from your leadership and the incredible amount of time you devoted to improving the safety and operations at the highly controversial Red Hill site. The Red Hill site is truly a unique and challenging project and your work on the project over many years will have a lasting positive impact.

You have our deepest respect for your work on behalf of the people of Hawaii. We are sending you much aloha as you enter a new phase!

Mahalo,

**DEBORAH
JORDAN**

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Deborah Jordan
Acting Regional Administrator